



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending May 26, 2002

Fair week for Field Work: Despite the below normal average temperatures and cool overnight temperatures, soils dried out and 4 days were suitable for fieldwork last week. Soil moisture was rated as 3 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 29 percent surplus. Principal farm activities included spring plowing; planting oats, potatoes, field corn and soybeans; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; preparing hay equipment; cutting hay; ordering supplies; cleaning barns; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling and spreading manure; caring for livestock; spraying herbicides and insecticides; and attending farm meetings.

Crops: Temperatures remained below normal last week which slowed down emergence. As a result of the heavy precipitation throughout the state prior to last week, spring plowing, at 88 percent complete, fell off last year's pace of 94 percent as well as the five year average of 92 percent. Nonetheless, Pennsylvania's wheat crop improved to only 1 percent rated as poor, 13 percent was rated as fair; 70 percent as good and 16 percent rated as excellent. As of last week, 65 percent of the wheat was headed which is slightly less than the 5 year average. Ninety-four percent of the oat acreage had been seeded and 85 percent of the oat acres seeded had emerged, both slightly behind the five year average. Six percent of the oat crop remained rated as very poor to poor, 26 percent as fair, 57 percent as good, and 11 percent as excellent. Corn acres planted rebounded last week with 72 percent planted, compared with 86 percent planted for the same week one year ago and 81 percent planted for the five year average. Of the corn acres planted, 10 percent was rated as poor; 34 percent as fair; 50 percent as good and 6 percent as excellent. Some areas received damaging frost to emerged corn and beans. Soybean acres planted doubled compared with the previous week, however, remained 13 percent off the five year average. The acres of barley that had headed, 93 percent, is comparable to the previous year, 91 percent, and the five year average which is also 91 percent. Only 32 percent of the first cutting of hay had been put up, 5 percent less than a year ago and only slightly less than the five year average. Four percent of the hay made was rated as very poor; four percent as poor; 25 percent as fair; 40 percent as good and 27 percent as excellent.

Livestock: The moderate temperatures and supportive pasture condition were conducive to grazing livestock last week. As of last week 2 percent of the pastures were rated as poor; 29 percent as fair; 53 percent as good and 16 percent as excellent.

Fruit & Vegetables: Once again, some areas within the state reported heavy frost this past week. The extent of the damage to the fruit and vegetable crops became visible as of last week. Because of the cool temperatures and previous wet conditions, only 79 percent of the potato acres have been planted, down by 10 percent from last year and even with the five average.

U.S. As Of May 19, 2002: Heavy rain fell on already saturated soils in the middle Mississippi and Ohio River Valleys, flooding many streams and river bottoms in the southern Corn Belt and stalling virtually all field work in the central and eastern Corn Belt. Meanwhile, planting remained active across the northern Corn Belt and adjacent areas of the central and northern Great Plains most of the week. Many areas of the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast received rainfall, but significant planting delays were mostly isolated. Above-normal temperatures stimulated crop development in the Southwest, and near-normal temperatures promoted growth along the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Elsewhere, cold weather, including many sub-freezing overnight temperatures in the upper Mississippi Valley and northern Great Plains, prevented seed germination and damaged foliage of emerged crops. Corn: Planting progressed to 70 percent complete, 1 week later than last year and the 5-year average of 88 and 87 percent, respectively. Thirty-four percent has emerged, compared with 62 percent on this date last year. Planting barely advanced in the central and eastern Corn Belt, as saturated soils and additional heavy rain prevented field work in most areas. At the end of the week, planting was about 4 weeks late in Indiana and 3 weeks behind in Ohio. In Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan, planting delays ranged from nearly 2 weeks to almost 3 weeks. Germination and emergence were hampered by cold weather across the Corn Belt, including many overnight record lows. Soybeans: Thirty percent of the crop has been planted and 6 percent has emerged. Planting was far behind last

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 26, 2002

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>		
Spring Plowing	88	94	92
Corn, Planted	72	86	81
Corn, Emerged	50	64	N/A
Corn, Height (Inches)	3	4	4
Barley, Headed	93	91	91
Barley, Turning Yellow	25	13	18
Winter Wheat, Headed	65	68	67
Oats, Planted	94	97	98
Oats, Emerged	85	86	87
Soybeans, Planted	34	49	47
Soybeans, Emerged	18	29	N/A
Tobacco, Transplanted	8	35	28
Potatoes, Planted	79	90	80
Timothy Clover, 1 st Cutting	5	11	11

N/A = Not available

U.S Narrative continued on back page

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 26, 2002

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Corn	0	10	34	50	6
Winter Wheat	0	1	13	70	16
Oats	1	5	26	57	11
Soybeans	0	11	37	47	5
Alfalfa Stand	0	1	18	66	15
Timothy Clover Stand	0	3	26	60	11
Quality of Hay Made	4	4	25	40	27
Pasture Conditions	0	2	29	53	16
Peaches	2	8	63	26	1
Apples	2	8	12	75	3

Weather Data For Week Ending May 26, 2002

STATION	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 02 - May 26, 02					GDD
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
<u>NORTHWEST</u>												
Erie	76	30	51	-10	0.63	1	9.88	+3.82	33	283	+69	649
Franklin_AG	77	25	48	-12	0.15	2	10.95	+4.30	27	216	+5	586
Meadville	72	28	49	-10	0.71	1	10.17	+3.74	31	226	+46	580
Mercer	73	22	46	-15	0.43	2	9.98	+3.52	26	181	-38	526
Springboro	75	26	47	-13	1.25	3	11.47	+5.69	38	198	-29	513
Warren	77	30	48	-11	0.67	2	11.49	+4.70	33	207	+7	560
<u>NORTH CENTRAL</u>												
Bradford	72	24	46	-10	0.89	2	11.24	+4.58	37	189	+63	513
Emporium	79	27	49	-8	0.12	2	10.17	+3.10	34	218	+71	589
Kane	72	22	42	-14	0.64	1	11.46	+4.46	32	91	-30	349
Laporte	74	28	49	-11	0.03	1	10.43	+3.84	27	180	-40	508
Lock_Haven	80	30	51	-10	0.05	1	9.00	+2.85	25	293	+45	713
Port_Allegany	75	26	45	-12	0.56	1	9.07	+2.88	30	148	-10	474
Renovo	79	30	50	-11	0.06	3	8.63	+2.48	34	258	+10	662
Ridgway	73	24	46	-12	0.36	2	10.65	+3.58	26	152	+5	480
Stevenson_Dam	79	28	49	-8	0.30	2	9.30	+2.23	31	217	+70	591
Towanda	77	29	50	-11	0.01	1	7.18	+1.41	29	211	-15	582
Wellsboro	74	26	47	-9	0.21	1	8.49	+3.43	30	151	+23	467
Williamsport_AP	80	32	53	-10	0.08	1	8.28	+1.87	26	353	+46	794
<u>NORTHEAST</u>												
Hawley	79	27	49	-9	0.33	1	8.89	+2.14	26	186	+27	516
Scranton	79	30	51	-11	0.39	3	7.51	+1.53	29	319	+50	727
Susquehanna	80	28	51	-7	0.12	1	8.20	+1.24	28	243	+99	612
<u>WEST CENTRAL</u>												
Butler	75	28	49	-12	0.04	2	7.27	+0.69	28	250	+11	630
New_Castle	75	30	50	-11	0.37	2	7.49	+1.57	34	269	+37	669
Slippery_Rock	76	29	49	-11	0.30	2	9.23	+3.05	33	245	+38	635
<u>CENTRAL</u>												
Altoona_AP	79	31	52	-10	0.03	1	9.22	+3.04	22	338	+54	743
Du_Bois	71	26	48	-12	0.21	2	11.30	+4.65	36	255	+42	624
Lewistown	80	32	52	-11	0.01	1	7.87	+1.52	26	330	-3	789
Middletown	82	38	56	-10	0.04	1	8.29	+1.49	28	452	+68	949
Prince_Gallitzi	76	27	49	-10	0.13	2	9.46	+1.28	27	254	+65	626
Selinsgrove	82	32	52	-10	0.33	1	8.42	+2.05	25	290	+11	723
State_College_P	77	32	52	-10	0.07	3	8.51	+2.62	28	311	+44	739
<u>EAST CENTRAL</u>												
Allentown	82	32	53	-11	0.03	3	8.49	+1.42	29	370	+43	822
Lehighton	83	31	53	-10	0.12	3	10.09	+3.14	29	317	+7	762
Matamoras	82	32	52	-9	0.06	1	8.85	+1.27	27	221	-37	578
Tobyhanna	81	30	51	-5	0.12	2	9.76	+1.85	29	236	+115	581
<u>SOUTHWEST</u>												
Allegheny_Co_AP	76	33	54	-8	0.18	2	7.50	+0.74	31	432	+143	876
Derry	75	30	49	-12	0.10	1	8.09	+1.48	28	308	+62	724
Meyersdale	74	25	47	-13	0.13	2	8.85	+1.26	29	205	-33	554
Mount_Pleasant	77	28	50	-9	0.44	2	10.43	+2.82	28	302	+105	702
Pittsburgh	77	31	53	-10	0.35	2	6.87	+0.73	29	401	+87	835
Rector	79	27	51	-8	0.30	2	9.52	+1.91	25	341	+144	754
Waynesburg	79	29	51	-10	0.23	1	8.97	+2.19	25	313	+46	730
<u>SOUTH CENTRAL</u>												
Biglerville	83	33	54	-10	0.00	0	7.09	+0.59	28	403	+20	876
Everett	80	29	51	-10	0.06	2	9.10	+2.70	27	319	+52	741
Hanover	82	32	54	-11	0.00	0	7.09	+0.59	26	412	+29	881
Shippensburg	84	33	55	-10	0.02	1	7.92	+1.65	27	449	+52	925
South_Mountain	83	24	52	-10	0.00	0	7.15	+0.97	25	309	+32	703
York_AP	83	31	53	-12	0.00	0	6.90	+0.23	25	435	+41	886
<u>SOUTHEAST</u>												
Green_Lane	86	36	57	-5	0.04	2	8.33	+1.21	26	472	+169	983
Hamburg	84	30	54	-7	0.01	1	8.15	+0.19	29	368	+122	843
Hopewell	82	31	53	-12	0.00	0	9.34	+2.09	23	358	-52	813
Lancaster_AP	82	35	55	-8	0.00	0	9.17	+2.52	23	445	+115	934
Neshaminy_Falls	83	36	56	-8	0.00	0	7.45	-0.34	21	392	+70	882
New_Holland	82	34	55	-8	0.01	1	7.82	+1.17	27	416	+86	899
Philadelphia	85	41	59	-7	0.00	0	5.94	-0.83	20	578	+152	1100
Philadelphia_NE	83	39	57	-9	0.00	0	7.28	+0.51	23	497	+71	1001
Reading_AP	82	33	55	-8	0.01	1	9.23	+1.75	24	439	+130	917
Valley_Forge_Na	84	30	54	-12	0.00	0	7.80	+0.55	22	388	-22	858
Willow_Grove	86	38	58	-5	0.17	1	7.09	-0.70	23	557	+235	1075

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

“Tractors were rolling this week with the weather finally cooperating. Everything was being done at the same time. Oats, corn, and beans were being planted. Dairy farmers were harvesting alfalfa for the silo along with round baling and wrapping. There is still more plowing to be done in the wet areas of the county. The upcoming week looks to be decent.”

– Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

“Several nights with frost in the early week, heavy in some places. Drier conditions by the weekend allowed for plowing and spring planting to get into high gear.”

– Harry Blanchet, Forest County

“All tree fruit is past blossom fall stage. All of the peach and plum crop was lost to frost.”

– John Esslinger, Lackawanna County

“Lots of corn frosted this week, but most corn was two leaves or less. The cold weather is slowing the signs of recovery. A few beans were frosted but are expected to recover.”

– Andrew Kimmel, Armstrong County

“We were greeted Monday morning by a heavy freeze that affected the strawberries. The week started out cool and sunny and by the end of the week it was sunny and warm. Lots of field work was done. Heavy workload on planting corn and potatoes. Farmers getting anxious to get 1st crop alfalfa off the fields.”

– Dolly Little, Cambria County

“Made some hay this week, would have liked to have made more but the ground is too wet to dry hay. Hope nice weather keeps up.”

– Marina, Huntington County

“Heavy frost early in the week impacted crops that were emerged. Corn and soybeans are affected and the coming weeks will reveal the severity of the damage. Frost was county wide on the 21st through the 23rd.”

– Terry Stehr, Schuylkill County

“Many fields still too wet to till or plant. Freezing temperatures several mornings this week damaged growing corn and sweet corn. Most of the early planted fields will need to be replanted. Some forage is being harvested. Too cool and wet for dry hay harvest.”

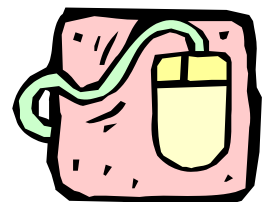
– John Lohr, Westmoreland County

“This week we had 5 mornings of frosty weather. Some areas suffered freeze damage on newly emerged corn. Too early to tell if it will need replanting. No damage to fruit except strawberries. All of the first cutting of alfalfa has been completed and reports are that crop was a little below average but not significantly low. Corn needs some warm days to bring it along.”

– Thomas Kerr, Franklin County

“Cold weather early in the week, frost 2 mornings. Damage is not known yet but tomatoes and strawberries uncovered were effected. Warm weather late in the week helped the ground dry off enough to get back in the fields, first time in 2-3 weeks. Haylage was being made also some that cut hay mid week made dry hay by the weeks end. A lot of ground is being worked too wet, but more showers are in the forecast.”

– Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery Co.

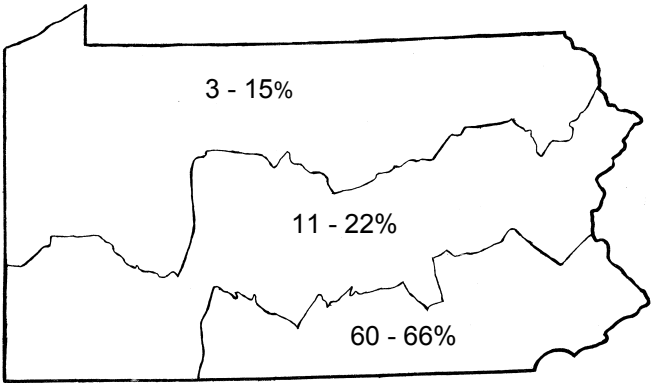


U.S Narrative Continued:

year's 55 percent and more than 1 week behind the normal pace of 50 percent. Very few soybean fields were planted across the southern, central, and eastern Corn Belt, where persistent wet weather continued to prevent field work. Planting was 3 weeks behind normal in Indiana and Ohio and 2 weeks late in Illinois. Planting was also well behind normal in Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin. In the northwestern Corn Belt and Great Plains, progress was near normal. Seasonal warmth promoted germination on the Atlantic Coastal Plains, but cold weather hampered emergence in

the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Winter Wheat: Sixty-four percent of the winter wheat acreage has headed, slightly behind last year and the average for this date of 66 and 65 percent, respectively. Fields rapidly entered the heading stage on the central Great Plains, despite cooler-than-normal weather. More than one-fifth of the acreage headed during the week in Kansas and Colorado. Meanwhile, fields headed well behind normal in the eastern Corn Belt, especially in Ohio. Fields also developed slower than normal across the northern Great Plains. Fields quickly ripened along the Gulf Coast, and harvest gradually accelerated.

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